

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:EI
APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON,JR.
S/S:LREDDY
P - MR. HABIB
S:HCOLLUMS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 231664 TOSEC 270355

NODIS
FOR SECRETARY FROM ATHERTON THRU HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE, SA, US

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM: KHADDAM'S REQUESTS

(S/S NO 7619677)

1. PROBLEM: HOW TO RESPOND TO KHADDAM'S SUGGESTIONS MADE TO MURPHY FOR OUR SEPTEMBER 23 STATEMENT ON LEBANON AND ABOUT OUR APPROACHING THE SAUDIS, KUWAITIS, AND GULF STATES OVER THE INTERRUPTION IN FUNDING SUPPORT FOR SYRIA FROM THESE STATES. (REFERENCE: DAMASCUS 6286)

2. BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS: KHADDAM'S REQUESTS, SPARKED AS THEY WERE BY THE EARLIER ASAD-MURPHY TALK, CONSTITUTE A MAJOR AND EXTREMELY POSITIVE MOVE IN THE U.S.-SYRIAN RELATIONSHIP. WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE.

3. WE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF AMBASSADOR PORTER'S PRESENCE IN
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DEPARTMENT TO DISCUSS WITH HIM KHADDAM'S REQUEST FOR HELP

WITH THE SAUDIS. PORTER THOUGHT THAT FAHD WOULD BE AMEN-
ABLE TO A US APPROACH ALONG THE LINES REQUESTED BY KHADDAM
GIVEN HIS, PORTER'S, ABSENCE FROM SAUDI ARABIA, HE THOUGHT
YOU SHOULD TAKE UP THE MATTER WITH SAUD WHEN YOU SEE HIM IN
NEW YORK ON OCTOBER 6. PORTER SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE

SAUDIS WERE CONTINUING TO SUBSIDIZE THE PLO AT ABOUT THE
700,000 DOLS PER MONTH LEVEL AND, ALTHOUGH HE COULD NOT
BE CERTAIN, BELIEVED THAT THE SAUDIS WERE AT MOST DRIBBLI
OUT ONLY SMALL SUMS TO THE SYRIANS. (KHADDAM DID NOT ASK
US TO MENTION THE PLO SUBSIDY, ONLY THE SUBSIDIES FOR THE
PALESTINIAN EXTREMISTS AND JUMBLATT). THE SAUDIS CHARAC-
TERISTICALLY WOULD USE THE TACTIC OF STOPPING FUNDS IF
THEY WANTED THE SYRIANS, AS THEY DO, TO EFFECT A RECONCIL
ATION WITH THE EGYPTIANS. THE EGYPTIANS THEMSELVES MIGHT
HAVE ENCOURAGED THE SAUDIS TO HOLD UP THEIR SUBSIDIES TO
SYRIA.

4. REGARDING OUR PUBLIC STATEMENT ON SARKIS' INAUGURATIO
THE POINTS SUGGESTED BY KHADDAM ARE ALREADY COVERED FAIRLY
WELL BUT WE BELIEVE SAUNDERS CAN REWORK STATEMENT TO BRIN
THOSE POINTS OUT MORE SHARPLY ALONG LINES KHADDAM SUGGEST
WE COULD TELL KHADDAM THAT WE ARE DOING SO. WE BELIEVE
WE SHOULD ALSO TELL KHADDAM THAT YOU WILL BE TAKING UP TH
QUESTION OF SUPPORT FOR SYRIA IN YOUR UNGA MEETINGS WITH
THE APPROPRIATE FOREIGN ;MINISTERS. WE SHOULD NOT BE TOO
SPECIFIC IN WHAT WE SAY TO KHADDAM IN THIS RESPECT, HOW-
EVER. OTHERWISE, KHADDAM MIGHT MAKE USE OF WHAT HE WOULD
REGARD AS A STRONG US COMMITMENT IN WAYS THAT WOULD BE
DETRIMENTAL TO OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH EGYPT IN PARTICULAR.

5. ACTION RECOMMENDED:

THAT YOU APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CABLE OF INSTRUCTIONS TO
MURPHY:

BEGIN TEXT:

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TO: DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
INFO: SECSTATE IMMEDIATE
PFOR, LE, SY, SA, US

GDS

SUBJECT: KHADDAM'S SUGGESTIONS

REF: DAMASCUS 6286

NODIS, FOR AMBASSADOR MURPHY FROM SECRETARY

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH KHADDAM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO
CONVEY THE FOLLOWING POINTS IN RESPONSE TO HIS PROPOSALS
AND SUGGESTIONS REFTEL:

-- WE APPRECIATED THE SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR PLANNED PUBLIC
STATEMENT ON LEBANON. KHADDAM'S RECOMMENDED POINTS WILL
BE INCLUDED IN IT.

-- ASSURE KHADDAM CATEGORICALLY THAT WE WOULD REGARD A
CUT IN AID TO SYRIA AS CONTRARY TO OUR POLICY INTERESTS
AND THAT WE HAVE NEVER URGED ANY GOVERNMENT TO REDUCE ITS
AID TO SYRIA OR TO APPLY PRESSURE IN ANY WAY.

-- THE SECRETARY INTENDS TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF SUPPORT
FOR SYRIA WITH APPROPRIATE FOREIGN MINISTERS DURING THE
UNGA.

-- KHADDAM CAN BE ASSURED THAT OUR EXCHANGES WITH HIM AND
ASAD ON THIS SUBJECT WILL BE HELD IN THE CLOSEST CON-
FIDENCE, AS WE ARE CERTAIN THEY WILL BE CLOSELY HELD BY
SARG AS WELL.

-- WHILE TRAVELLING IN AFRICA, THE SECRETARY IS CONTINUING
TO FOLLOW MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY. HE HAS
FOLLOWED WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION SYRIA'S CONTINUING CON-
STRUCTIVE EFFORTS AND RECENT POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS FOCUSED
ON PRESIDENT-ELECT SARKIS' IMMINENT INAUGURATION. HE IS
HOPEFUL THAT THIS WILL TAKE PLACE IN A CONCILIATORY ATMOS-
PHERE AMONG ALL THOSE CONCERNED WITH AND INVOLVED IN

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LEBANON AND THAT THE ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE BY SARKIS WILL
INDEED BE A TURNING POINT TOWARD THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC
RECONSTRUCTION OF AN INDEPENDENT, STABLE AND UNIFIED
LEBANON.

-- THE SECRETARY LOOKS FORWARD TO SEEING KHADDAM IN NEW
YORK AND TO THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THESE AND OTHER
QUESTIONS OF MUTUAL INTEREST TO OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

APPROVE..... DISAPPROVE

6. DRAFTED: NEA/ARN:MDRAPER

APPROVED:NEA:ALATHERTON

CLEARANCES:

S/S- MR. REDDY

P - MR. HABIB

S - HAL COLLUMS
ROBINSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, POLICIES, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, INAUGURATION, INSTRUCTIONS, BRIEFING MATERIALS, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS, CAT-C
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE231664
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MDRAPER:EI
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: OA
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840096-1814, N760007-0091
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760945/aaaabmdz.tel
Line Count: 171
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUN 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <20 OCT 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ACTION MEMORANDUM: KHADDAM'S REQUESTS
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, US, SY, LE, SA, (KHADDAM, ABD AL-HALIM), (SARKIS, ELIAS), (MURPHY, RICHARD W)
To: USDEL SECRETARY SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006